

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 LSPA MEETING MINUTES

The meeting came to order at 8:35am in the cafeteria.

WELCOME BACK DINNER

Shauneen Donlon and Pam Belfanz, this year's co-chairs, provided details of this year's Welcome Back Dinner event, which will be held Thursday, September 23rd from 5-7:30pm on our new lawn (rain date will be the same in the gym.) Two primary changes have been made to the event from previous years. The first is that there will be no "per-family" price, just a "per person" price. The committee felt that removing the family cap would ensure a reasonable per person cost for everyone. The second change is to registration. There will be NO pay-at-the-door; everyone must pre-register by the deadline of Monday, September 20th. This change was necessary to ensure that everyone who paid for a meal did receive a meal - in past years, we have run out of food when we were unable to properly anticipate the number of last-minute registrants.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The June, 2010 minutes were reviewed and approved. One change to the timeline for the State's approval for the V-O project was noted.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Lee Anne Toner, Lincoln's librarian, and Anita Colasante, one of the Library Committee co-chairs, shared some changes happening in the library space this year. The most notable change is the addition of 26 computers, as the technology lab was converted to a 3rd grade classroom. Although the space is shared, the use of the computers is completely separate, and classes will be conducted at different times than library hours. In addition to the computer space, there is also a new "reading nook" space in the library. If anyone has bean bags, large throw pillows, etc. that could be donated, please contact Lee Anne. Finally, Lee Anne said that the volunteer schedule will be going out soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susan Fagerstrom gave the Treasurer's report for the end of year period through June 30, 2010. The LSPA ended the 2009-2010 school year with a surplus of \$32,525.64. Although the Direct Appeal fell short of budget by ~\$3000 to end at ~\$24,000, it was still a strong showing given the overall economic environment. And many of the committees didn't spend their full budgets for the year, helping to balance expenses against revenues.

Susan also shared the year-end balances of the 5th grade account and the Library account, which fall under the LSPA non-profit umbrella and oversight. The 5th grade committee budget posted a higher surplus by the end of the year than the surplus with which it started. The library, while ending with a slight surplus, drew down a sizeable surplus from a year ago by replenishing books sorely needed for the library. (As an aside, the town pays for software and a small stipend for books, and the rest of the library revenue comes from the ~\$4,000 the LSPA raises through the Book Fair.)

The June 30 Treasurer's Report was approved as is.

Jen Pagan, this year's Treasurer, introduced herself and Lietza Malloy, the Assistant Treasurer. Jen manages the overall budget reporting and balance sheets, while Lietza manages the on-going receipt, payment, and deposit of checks. If you have receipts, there is a treasurer's box in the main office with a form to fill out and accompany the receipts; this form is also available on-line at www.lincolnspe.org. Jen also explained the new two-sided Treasurer's report and walked through the budget for July and August. The only major change year-over-year is the way we are disbursing the funds for the Class teachers: this year, we are reimbursing the teachers as they submit receipts. Last year, the budget was disbursed as a lump sum at the beginning of the year, but as this may be construed as a gift, the process has now been modified.

The July and August 2010 report was approved as is.

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bridget Stump explained how the Direct Appeal works; namely, that the LSPA asks for a one-time donation from each family in any amount they can afford, versus several fundraising drives (e.g., selling wrapping paper.) We have had a very successful history of raising the money needed to support the many programs the LSPA funds for the school, and we will continue with this approach. There will be a backpack mailing this week with the Direct Appeal form and an explanation included.

We still need Room Parents for several classrooms – please sign up!

Bridget announced that we will have a new School Directory this year. Students will be listed in alpha order and by classroom. Deb Whitney is compiling the forms, and Bridget encouraged everyone to check the box on the information forms that came home on the first few days of school.

Bridget quickly introduced Barbara Boches, Lincoln's Special Education Parents Action Committee liaison, to the LSPA. The Special Education PAC is a district-wide committee which meets to discuss the needs of special education throughout the district.

Finally, Curriculum Night will be October 7th this year, and Bridget encouraged everyone to attend.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Kate Scanlon talked about the playground improvements underway. First, a huge thanks to the LSPA for funding the new blacktop and thanks to the Winchester DPW for the new sod. There are still a few items left to complete, such as a hopscotch outline and a small basketball hoop. The improvements will continue, however, and be an evolving process. Chris Furlong, Kate, Sarah Girotti, Bridget Stump and Andrew Chesterton are the members of the playground committee and continue to meet to discuss the next phase of improvements.

Over the summer, Kate reported that all 5th grade classrooms district-wide received new interactive boards called ENOboards. At Lincoln, we received all new computers, which are sleek and smaller than their predecessors, good timing with the new shared quarters in the library.

Space does continue to be an issue, as the reason the computer lab moved into the library was to make way for a fourth, 3rd grade classroom. With increasing enrollment over the past few years, we have lost a separate music room, SPED room, and now the computer lab.

This year, we have two new classroom teachers: Patricia Anzalone in Kindergarten (replacing Erin McCue) and Deborah Tomashow, who will teach the fourth, 3rd grade classroom. We also have a new Special Education teacher, Karen Daniels.

Finally, Kate discussed the change to the recess rotation. This year, the 5th graders are sharing the playground with the Kindergartners in hopes that the age gap will mitigate the vying for space which occurred when the 4th and 5th graders shared recess. The staff will separate the field a bit and will be monitoring recess time carefully to see if this class pairing is working; however, Kate said the 5th graders are assuming a very nurturing role towards the Kindergartners, and there are early signs that this may prove a successful arrangement.

GUEST SPEAKER – LYNN VOZZELLA, SCHOOL NURSE

Lynn introduced herself and gave an overview of her fall activities, specifically vision (K-5) and hearing (K-3) screenings. Parents will only hear from her if there are any concerns which warrant additional evaluation.

Lynn was pleased to announce that the Winchester Board of Health will once again be offering a flu clinic in every school in the district. The Board of Health will be sending home the paperwork, which must be returned to them in Town Hall, not to the school. The clinics will be held towards the end of October and the beginning of November. Unlike last year, the H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines are combined in one vaccine.

Lynn reminded parents, if a child is out sick, to please provide the reason and symptoms so that she can keep track of any possible waves of a certain illness. She also reminded parents to refresh themselves on how long to keep a child at home for fever, pink eye, etc.

Finally, Lynn also discussed head lice. As the school nurses are **not** required to check for lice, it is the responsibility of parents. If someone is unfamiliar with what to look for, there are links to on-line resources in the LinLetter which have images and explain what to do in the event that your child has head lice.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.